

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATHENS DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

v.

LANEL CHAMBERS,

Defendant.

CRIMINAL ACTION NO.
3:22-cr-00025-TES-CHW-3

ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANT'S MOTION
TO CONTINUE TRIAL IN THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE

Before the Court is Defendant Lanel Chambers' Motion to Continue Trial in the Interest of Justice [Doc. 237]. On October 11, 2022, the Grand Jury returned a multi-defendant, multi-count indictment charging Defendant Lanel Chambers with one count of Conspiracy to Distribute and to Possess with Intent to Distribute Heroin and Fentanyl. [Doc. 1]. On January 20, 2023, Defendant was arrested. On February 7, 2023, Defendant pled not guilty at his arraignment and was detained pending trial. [Doc. 111]; [Doc. 112].

On February 14, 2023, the Court granted Defendant's Motion to Continue [Doc. 119] and continued this case for the first time until the April 3, 2023, trial term. [Doc. 121]. On March 8, 2023, the Court held a pretrial conference, found that additional time was needed in this case to prepare for trial, and continued this case for the second time until the June 12, 2023, trial term. [Doc. 155]. On April 28, 2023, the Court issued an

Order [Doc. 188] declaring this case complex due to the voluminous discovery, consisting of countless recordings, investigation reports, crime lab reports, and other electronic and tangible evidence. On June 22, 2023, the Court granted a Joint Motion for Continuance [Doc. 198] and continued this case for the third time until the February 26, 2024, trial term. [Doc. 200]. In the same Order, the Court scheduled a pretrial conference for January 10, 2024. *Id.*

Defendant asks the Court to continue this case for a fourth time because his attorney “is lead counsel for the Defendant in *State of Georgia v. Quamarvious Nichols*, Case No. 22SC183572, which commenced trial on January 4, 2023, . . . began opening statements and calling witnesses on November 27, 2023, and is anticipated to last an additional 4-6 months.” [Doc. 237, pp. 1–2]. Because Defendant’s “counsel is unavailable to appear at the pretrial conference and trial before this Court as they are set” and “no other associate admitted before this Court is available to appear,” Defendant requests that the Court continue his trial to a later term and “exclude the time pursuant to the provisions of the Speedy Trial Act.” [Doc. 237, p. 2].

“The Government does not object to a continuance.” [Doc. 237, p. 2].

The Court finds that granting Defendant’s request serves the ends of justice. The Court further finds that the ends of justice served by granting Defendant’s request outweigh the interests of Defendant and the public in a speedy trial. Failure to grant a continuance would create a conflict whereby Defendant’s counsel would be unavailable

to represent him.

Thus, the Court **GRANTS** Defendant's Motion [Doc. 237] and **CONTINUES** the Pretrial Conference until March 12, 2024, and the trial of this matter until April 22, 2024. The delay occasioned by this continuance shall be deemed excludable pursuant to the provisions of the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A) and 3161(h)(7)(B)(iv).

SO ORDERED, this 3rd day of January, 2024.

S/ Tilman E. Self, III

TILMAN E. SELF, III, JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT